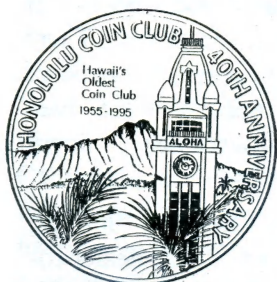


# NU-HOU-DALA-PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 15 NO. 43

MAY 13, 1995



## Nineteen Fifty-Five

By C. Matsuda

The Honolulu Coin Club is in its fortieth year this year. The club was founded on May 6, 1955 by a then United States Marine Corp-s captain named Charles J. Laskowski. Mr. Henry Kenway Luke is credited with naming the Honolulu Coin Club. According to club records, the Nu-Hou-Dala-Paa was not the Honolulu Coin Club's first newsletter. The club's first newsletter was called, "The Kion Klubber" that dated in February 1956.

In the coin world, 1955 was a great year for coin collecting. It was a great year for errored coins. For starters there was the Lincoln 1955 Double Die, which was made from improperly prepared dies that showed full doubled outlines on the date and legend. I remember a coin dealer telling me back in the 60's that he was offered eleven 1955 double dies for three dollars and fifty cents a piece. He didn't think it was worth that much, so he passes it. Today, the double dies are worth three thousand five hundred in MS65 according to the red book. Another error coin was the 1955 Franklin half dollar, with a slight error on the upper lip of Franklin's portrait. It was known as the Bugs Bunny half, referring to the cartoon character's buck teeth.

Other coins that are popular are the Roosevelt dime minted in Philadelphia which is the lowest mintage in the Roosevelt set with 12.8 million. The 1955 Roosevelt, P, D, S, were so popular that many were kept from circulation. The 1955 Washington quarter, Denver mint, was also a low

mintage coin with only 3.1 million coins minted. This coin was the lowest mintage coin since the 1940 Denver mintage of 2.7 million. In those days coins could still be collected as a running set by going to the bank and buying rolls of coins.

The news around the world was uneasy with the Cold War and Communism. The Far East was also a sorely troubled area, particularly in Indochina, following the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in May, 1954. A successful anti-polio vaccine was announced by Dr. Jonas E. Salk. Davy Crockett and rock'n'roll highlighted the year. "Coon" skin caps and Davy Crockett's technicolor movie produced in Hollywood by Walt Disney became a national fad. Rock and roll was in full swing with "Rock Around The Clock" by Bill Halley and the Comets. Remember? More than a billion comic books were sold according to a report issued by the University of California, at an estimated cost of one hundred million dollars. At ten cents a copy that was four times the book budget for all U.S. public libraries combined. New York State passed a law banning the sale of lurid crime and horror comics in 1955 for persons under 18 years of age. Violators were punished with a year in prison and/or a fine of five hundred dollars.

In sports it was a great year for the Brooklyn Dodgers, who won their first baseball championship against the mighty New York Yankees. Rocky Marciano was still the World's Heavyweight Champion in boxing. The Cleveland Browns defeated the Los Angeles Rams 38 to 14 for the NFL Championship. In the NBA the Syracuse Nationals beat the Fort Wayne Pistons for the title. Syracuse? Fort Wayne? In the NBA? So, that was the year 1955. By the way, who was the President of the United States in 1955? Well, I'll let you look it up. Happy 40th Anniversary.



## HSNA COIN CONVENTION

BY HELEN L. CARMODY

Although attendance was slightly down from 1993, the Hawaii State Numismatic Association's 31st anniversary convention November 10-13 at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel on Oahu was deemed a success, with desired material acquired by collectors and plenty of mainland dealers.

The opening day of the state's numismatic event of the year saw spirited dealer-to-dealer business on the 63 table (80 dealer) bourse. Collectors who came early were enthusiastic about the fresh material displayed at the show and the willingness of dealers to share their knowledge.

"What really pleased me about this show," remarked Don King of Windward Coins, Kailua, "was that the ANACS grading people were here. We had numerous educational seminars for those who wanted to learn, and the turnout for those events were very, very, good. The attendance was fair, and business was brisk. A lot of proof sets and medium range items were selling well."

"I believe collectors were actually making quite a few purchases," said Michael O'Higgins of Maryland Coin Exchange, Silver Spring, Md. "Key-date coins were especially popular. I'd like to see more dealers from the mainland setting up at the show. Once a dealer comes over here, he will be hooked for future shows because of the accomodating treatment by the club officers, the hospitality of the people, and the spectacular environment."

Honolulu dealer Francis Loo remarked, "The presence of ANACS served as an educational source for myself personally and for my customers, too. Having a professional appraisal of coins helped collectors make more educated purchases. A lot of good friends were buying and selling. Collector interest continues, which is good for the hobby to share the joys of collecting, as the hobby is really for the collector."

Ray Gelewski of Silver Dollar Associates, Spotsylvania, Va., said, "I am just elated with the attendance and the number of people who showed interest in all the series, especially Morgan dollars and commemoratives. I was revisited by many of the friends, acquaintances and clients we have made during the past six years of doing the show."

"What overshadows everything is just being able to meet with these people, talk with them again, and do business. We definitely appreciate the hospitality shown to us by the bourse chairman, the outstanding security arrangements and the overall superior facilities provided to the dealers."

Although new faces didn't appear to be in attendance, the "hard-core" collectors were present, said dealer James A. Hill from Treasure Trove in San Diego, California.

"Affordable XF-AU coins sold well," said Hill. "I did very well with ancient coins. Hawaiiana material, as usual, was the best-selling item at the show. There was a lot of interest in large size and national currency. Several mainland dealers were here primarily to buy that material and were able to buy it from local dealers."

Dealer George I. Eggimann of Diamond Springs, California, stated, "There was excellent dealer-to-dealer business this year, but retail activity was a bit slow. As dealers, we receive excellent treatment from the members of HSNA, especially Greg Hunt and Marion Kendrick. I have been coming here since 1973 and intend to return next year and the year after."

Don H. Ketterling, of Kirkland, Wash., commented, "It was very slow the first day and became very active Friday afternoon and Saturday. It seems there are less and less collectors each year and more browsers. I think the setup is fine. The security is always good and the drawings and seminars are a boost to attendance and stimulate interest. The economy has just been sputtering here, as it has been everywhere, and business at the show reflected that. People are on budgets and seem to have less money to spend each time."

Another Kirkland dealer, James P. Hart, said, "There weren't as many collectors here as there were last year. However, it was a good show. There was a lot of fresh material to be purchased. As always, it was a pleasure to visit with all the people from the Islands, and the show was very well run. The security is the best in the nation. Hawaiiana, currency and some coins seemed to be of most interest to collectors attending the show."

Everything from 50 cent coins to four figure items were sold by Honolulu dealer, James A. Simek of Hawaiian Islands Stamp & Coin.

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## CONVENTION

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"The areas of strength seemed to be rare Hawaiiana, as usual, currency (both foreign and U.S.), silver dollars, and Hawaiian-related material, such as autographs, documents, and postcards," Simek said. "We were very pleased with the collector turnout and have good feelings about the market for the near future."

Al Kreuzer of Alan Kreuzer Rare Coins, Castro Valley, California, said, "I believe the economy in Hawaii follows a year or a year and a half behind California, and definitely the conditions here are worse than they were six months ago. People who have come to this show for the last 15 years weren't present, or, if they did come, they didn't spend what they normally have in the past. Overall, however, I really like the people of Hawaii and their attitude. The majority of my business was wholesale. It is an especially well run show and I plan to return next year."

Hilo, Hawaii dealer, Vern Lowe of Lowe's Rare Coins, said, "It was a good show. No one series was any more popular than another. There were more people than normal who came to acquaint themselves with the hobby than to make actual purchases. I think the educational forum was a very good addition to the show and I hope to see it continue in future years."

Dealer Irving Kam of Honolulu said, "I think for an HSNA show, it was average. The first day was busy. Wholesale activity was very good. No one series seemed to be most popular. There was a general interest in all series of coins and Hawaiian collectibles. Because Friday was a holiday (Veteran's Day), we perhaps anticipated a better public turnout than we had."

Despite a poor economy, the influx of mainland dealers was helpful, said Haleiwa dealer Bill Comerford. "They have been strong buyers of commems, and I sold a lot of MS-64 commems to local collectors," Comerford said. "Generally, I have been very much pleased with the activity. It is the best HSNA show I have ever had. In the first day I did as much business as I anticipated for the entire show."

Retail activity was "marginal at best", said California dealer, Jack H. Beymer of Santa Rosa.

"It wasn't quite up to par," Beymer said. "Not as many people were interested in coins at this show as have been in the past. We had a good show; thank goodness for visiting dealers, who were actively seeking coins."

Craig Watanabe, of Captain Cook Coins in Honolulu, said he felt activity was good for him because of two recently purchased collections that he sold at the show.

"It seemed the low-end, Mint state type coins were selling very well in addition to premium quality certified coins in the \$500 and below range," Watanabe said. "However, there seemed to be more activity among the dealers than with the public, as has been the most recent trend."

Dealer Steven Musil, of Kearney, Nebraska, said, "This show has been about average for the shows I have attended this fall. This show is very well run. The people who attend HSNA are active collectors who are seeking tougher dates and grades. I would say that dealer-to-dealer business was about average."

James Kinoshita of Downtown Coin Gallery in Honolulu stated, "Attendance seemed the same, but due to the economy, people weren't able to spend the amounts they have in the past. The show had good dealer-to-dealer activity. If it weren't for the dealers, sales would have been down. Collector coins--basic bread and butter coins moved the best. There wasn't much interest in slabbed coins or high priced material."

A mainstay at the show is 30 year veteran Catherine Bullowa of Coinhunter, Philadelphia, Pa., who said, "My business was slow, although I had a number of my usual customers. People were doing the same thing here as in Philadelphia in that they wanted to sell. I was pleased to see some juniors who were really serious about wanting to collect. One boy, in particular, purchased a two-cent piece, three-cent nickel piece, and two types of large cents. He went away very happy, and so was I to start a young collector in our hobby."

Les Crawley of Tulsa, Okla., said, "We came over to renew old acquaintances as well as to sell as much Hawaiiana as we could in order to spend our children's inheritance! We have visited with eight or ten of my old friends from the Big Island Coin Club, some of whom I hadn't seen for 10 or 12 years."

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## ROOSEVELT DIMES PART I-----SILVER

BY IRVING KAM

A recently "rediscovered" certificate, dated September of 1981, and proclaiming this writer as member #61 in the "Full Serif Roosevelt Dime Club", renewed fond interest in this often over looked series. Akin to the full split bands on the Mercury dime or the full steps of the Jefferson nickel, attention is centered on well struck pieces and their minting characteristics. A quick scan of a recent Coin World "Trends" reveal that prices for B.U. Roosevelt dimes are really bargain basement cheap. In fact, surprisingly so when you consider that the value entails uncirculated silver coins with a significantly historical background. They currently offer an affordable entry level possibility and merit a closer look.

With the sudden passing of America's thirty-second president in 1945, a proposal was formulated to honor Franklin Delano Roosevelt by placing his likeness on a current circulating coin. The task of preparing a design was assigned to the mint's chief sculptor/engraver, John R. Sinnock, who soon after would repeat the process again with the Franklin half dollar. Interestingly, although Sinnock is credited with this Roosevelt representation, many researchers agree that sculptor Dr. Selma Burke's bas-relief of said president served as the principal inspiration. Uniting F.D.R. with the ten cents denomination proved an ideal pairing as his name would eventually become synonymous with the March of Dimes. A victim himself of poliomyelitis, which crippled him in 1921, helped lead the nation in its annual fund raising campaigns that culminated each year on his birthday. Further confirmation that the new Roosevelt dime was tied to the March of Dimes became apparent when Leland Howard, then acting Director of the Mint stated: "It is desired that the new dimes be produced at the beginning of the calendar year in sufficient quantity to use them in the infantile paralysis drive." Keeping within the confines of a deadline, the first new postwar coinage design was released into commerce on January 30, 1946, the sixty-fourth anniversary of Roosevelt's birth. As final proof of this winning combination, the Salk vaccine was proclaimed safe and effective against the dreaded disease in 1955, the tenth anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death.

The accumulation of every date and mint mark from the years 1946 through 1964, or what the more "seasoned" collectors refer to as a "running" set, should present just the right amount of provocation to keep it interesting. Surviving mintages favor the hobbyist so it makes sense to pursue only better than average pieces with original mint surfaces and a nice eye appeal. There are no really serious obstacles to this portion of the series and a good quality loupe should take care of all the minor ones. Improper storage methods in one form or another seems to be an age old problem. So is mishandling. As a result, there is an abundance of shiny looking "sliders" and sulfur burnt "Uncs" with everything else in between. Cleaned, over dipped, and hairlined dimes are also found in quantity and especially so on the better dated material for obvious reasons. Though the coin's rather flat plain design lends itself easily to abrasions, bag marks are not overly excessive due in part to its smaller size and lighter weight. As is typical of the San Francisco facility's output of the period, much of their coinage is plagued with soft mushy devices. Weakly struck examples, notably on the reverse areas, is a distinguishing trait of this mint's product and should be viewed as more of a challenge than a problem.

Just like any other series, the Roosevelt dimes has its share of key and semi-key dates that equate to, unfortunately, more money. However, over half of the forty eight pieces needed for this fun can be acquired for a few dollars each at most. The 1949-S is the high end item followed by the 1950-S, 1949-P, and the 1951-S respectively. The key date was listed at fifty dollars in the MS-65 column but it can be possibly encountered from time to time for a lot less. The same scenario is true of the most common dates that are offered occasionally for a little more than its intrinsic or silver value.

A natural extension to this grouping of dimes is with the addition of a proof version to the business strikes. They were produced primarily for the collector and struck at least twice on specially prepared dies and planchets. Available each year since 1950, the proof sets than contained the Roosevelt dimes are often broken up and sold individually to collectors according to their respective specialties. Like their circulation counterparts, inadequate storage practices and mishandling have contributed to impairments in every degree. Appropriate caution is advised as with

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## ROOSEVELT DIMES

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any other series and care should be exercised to prevent further deterioration. The first year of issue is considered the key date and carries a twenty six dollar current evaluation in PF-65. This sure has got to be the cheapest it has been in a long time. A more ambitious approach can be undertaken by collecting proof dimes with frosted devices on both sides of the coin. These early die strikes can be stunningly beautiful and are a whole category unto itself. Prices will be commensurated with the degree of depth as well as difficulty and should keep one busy for quite awhile.

Another avenue of interest is the multitude of die varieties that include repunched dates and mint marks, doubled dies, over mint marks, and the like. The first major variety coincided with the inaugural year of the dime when two distinct obverse hubs were employed. Type I is distinguished by a small misshapened J.S. designer's initials and the Y in Liberty is farther away from the forelock of Roosevelt's hair. On the Type II, the J.S. is larger with a more pronounced shape and the Y is closer to the forelock. The last year of silver content had a similar occurrence in the date area when again, two different working hubs were used. The first variety, the scarcer of the two, involves a 9 with a pointed tail and a plain upper serif in the number 1. On the second variety, the 9 has what is referred to as a blunt end and there is no serif to the numeral 1. Between these years, a myriad of fascinating varieties await the curious and offer a parallel with unlimited numismatic value.

Other related areas that offer diversity may be through the error field with some unusual but not less spectacular examples of coinage. Multiple strikes, off-centers, capped die strikes, wrong stock planchets, die cracks, broadstrikes, and so on. Or a toned set of dimes with kaleidoscopic coloration, which vary from coin to coin, can be assembled with some impressive results.

Many additional possibilities can be found throughout the Roosevelt series and will prove to be an absolutely solid choice especially when the element of enjoyment is factored in. Take a leisurely approach while handpicking each addition to the collection and by all means, have fun.

Aloha! Pau!

## The Maui Parrotbill

By C. Matsuda

High above the northwest slopes of Haleakala, Maui, lives a small population of honeycreepers. These birds seem unusually different with a distinctive parrot-like hooked bill. Found only on Maui they are called the **Maui Parrotbill** (pseudo nestor xanthophrys). These honeycreepers are olive green in color above the wings have a yellow breast and abdomen. There is also a yellow line above theirs with black lores. The tails are very short and brown in color. The Maui Parrotbill grows to about five and a half inches in size and forages on the stems and branches of their favorite Koa tree for larvae, pupae, and young beetles. Their curved upper and lower mandibles are efficient tools for foraging in the Maui rainforest. They maybe seen with other native Hawaiian creepers.

The Maui Parrotbill is the obverse of the number sixteen wood in the Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife Series. The reverse of the token is the Heliconia, a relative of the banana, Musaceae family of plants. Many types of Heliconia abound in the Hawaiian rainforests. The one seen on the token is called the Lobster Claw, which resembles the claw of the lobster, as it grows on the stem with its large long leaves. The colors of the claws are red with a dark green trim along the edges.

The **Maui Parrotbill** token, number sixteen in the Endangered Wildlife Series is available for purchase. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope and fifty cents for each token requested. Send to: **Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.**







## CONVENTION

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The show is more expanded than the last time we were here. There are more dealers from the mainland, and the exhibits are two or three times more informative than they were. We are so happy we came. Having ANACS represented is indicative of all the hard work and effort put into the way the show is run. All those connected with the convention deserve a lot of thanks."

Dick Armstrong of Dick Armstrong Rare Coins, Sacramento, Calif., stated: "The show was very positive. It was helped by the fact that there were quite a few mainland dealers working the floor. There was a buzz of activity. It was positive and profitable."

Another California dealer, Doug Bird of Douglas F. Bird, Inc., Hermosa Beach, commented, "We had a very good time and collectors showed up again, and they were very receptive to fresh material from the mainland. I certainly plan to be here next year."

Popular with the attendees was the first time appearance of ANACS grading service and the educational forum jointly sponsored by the Big Island Coin Club and HSNA.

Fourteen BICC members manned the forum, which consisted of showing video-tapes borrowed from the American Numismatic Association as well as three speakers on Nov. 12: Stan Santiago, "Phone Cards--Today's Newest Collectible," Vern Lowe: "Hawaiian Trial and Pattern Pieces"; and "Questions and Answers on Artificial Toning" by Bob Campbell.

Exhibits were again a highlight of the convention. James A. Simek's display, "Type Set of Small Size U.S. Currency from 1928-1969," consisted of six cases.

Three junior members, the Izuo sisters, entered their exhibits along with the adult members and received much praise for their efforts.

Exhibits at the convention are solely for educational purposes and are not competitive. Exhibitors are awarded a unique pewter medal.

This year's show medal (No. 7 of the HSNA's Hawaiian Island series) honors the return of Kahoolawe, which had been controlled by the Federal government for use as a military target practice site.

A total of 250 numbered silver and bronze sets were

produced. Wooden nickels (No. 15 in the series on Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife) were also produced in conjunction with the convention.

HSNA officers were elected for the coming year: Gregory B. Hunt, president; Glen Yokoyama, first vice-president; Alton Chow, second vice-president, Gary Lau, secretary; Marion F. Kendrick, treasurer; Charles Matsuda and W.K. Young, Honolulu Coin Club representatives; and Derrick Ah Sing and Walt Southward, Big Island Coin Club representatives.

On behalf of the American Numismatic Association, I presented L.R. "Rick" Howsley with the 1994 Outstanding District Delegate Award.

The HSNA's 32nd annual convention will be held on Nov. 9-12, 1995, at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. For more information, write to: Hawaii State Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI, 96809.

## ANA SELECTS YOUNG NUMISMATIST FROM HAWAII

Carey Ann Izuo (14) has been selected to receive an ANA Summer Conference Young Numismatist Scholarship. She will be attending the classes in July 1995. She is the eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Izuo of Kailua. She has two younger siblings, Christine (12) and Cherylynn (11), who are also members of the Honolulu Coin Club.

Carey attends Kailua Intermediate School. She is an "A" student with a 4.0 grade point average and finds the time to be involved in the following extra curricular activities--4-H, Swim Club, Church Lector, Girl Scouts of America, Honolulu Coin Club Juniors, and the Hawaii State Numismatic Association.

Carey has been a member of the Honolulu Coin Club Juniors since 1991. She has participated in many activities - from writing over ten research papers to giving over five lectures on collecting to our adult membership. She has been an exhibitor at the coin shows winning best junior exhibit more than once. She has exhibited maturity, dependability and strong leadership skills. She will truly be an outstanding representative of Hawaii.

She joins an elite group of juniors, such as Susanna Hunt and Dannie Garrett, Jr., who have completed the ANA Summer Seminar at the top of their class. The numismatists of Hawaii wish you the best and congratulate you on your accomplishments.



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COIN CLUBS OF HAWAII

### BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

November 1994 - Welcome to new BICC members who joined at the HSNA Coin Show- Ted Ashworth, Catherine Bullova, Vincente Colleado, John Groot, Greg Hunt, Edward Millerd, Bernard von Not Haus, Wayne Thomas, John Huntley, Irving Kam, Francis Loo and Adna and Joan Wilde. Verne Lowe's "show and tell" session on the Hawaiian pattern set he purchased was most interesting. Bill Ferreira rejoined the club. Bill Seifert writes from Florida to extend his aloha and Lewis Ford has finally moved from Hilo to his new home in Pahoa.

December 1994 - The meeting featured reports on the HSNA show from members who attended. Highlight of the evening was a classic array of desserts prepared by members of the Club. An outstanding selection of door prizes in keeping with the spirit of the holidays capped the evening. Rick Howsley has moved from Ka'u to Georgia where wife Carol is attending chiropractic school. Welcome to Bob St. John of Pahoa, a visitor at the meeting. Treasurer Byron Toma has been named Hawaii District ANA Delegate. Harold Watanabe was a part of the recent inaugural ceremonies for the County of Hawaii.

### HONOLULU COIN CLUB

December 1994 - No club meetings were held-- however our annual Christmas party was held. Over 90 members, families and guests were present to enjoy the good food, fun games and the outstanding door prizes. Thanks again to Charles Matsuda and the the HCC members who helped to make it a success.

January 1995 - Wah Kui Young and Kazuo Oyama were nominated and unanimously voted life members of the Honolulu Coin Club. This honor was bestowed upon them for their many years of service to the Honolulu Coin Club. Congratulations! Ted Ho on "Show and Tell" talked about Emergency Coinage and currency of and during World War II.

### IN MEMORIAM

The Hawaii State Numismatic Association regretfully announces the death of long time member, Don Carmody. Both Don and his wife, Helen, have been coin dealers, founders of the Commemorative Society, as well as members of the American Numismatic Association, California State Numismatic Society, Hawaii State Numismatic Association, Honolulu Coin Club, Big Island Coin Club and many other state and local coin clubs.

Don will be missed by the Hawaii Numismatic community since he was always willing to help others and gave of his time and information freely. He truly possessed our "Aloha Spirit". We are very appreciative of his spreading the word about our Hawaiian hospitality.

The HSNA, Honolulu Coin Club, and Big Island Coin Club would like to express our late, but nonetheless, heartfelt sympathy to his widow, Helen Carmody, of the ANA Board of Governors.

Donations may be made to the Scholarship fund for the ANA Summer Conference. Make checks payable to ANA -in his name. Send to ANA-Education Department, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279.

## HONOLULU COIN CLUB STATEHOOD DAY COIN SHOW KAPALAMA SCHOOL CAFETORIUM (ACROSS FROM THE KAMEHAMEHA SHOPPING CENTER)

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